

Needham Human Rights Committee  
Minutes

December 18, 2014 7:30 PM  
Broadmeadow School Conference Room

**Recorder:** Ashok Mehta

**Attendees:** Amelia Klein, John Schlittler, Ashok Mehta, Abdul Cader Asmal, Michael Vaughn, Barry Ehrlich, Cynthia Ganung, Bud Schram

1. Minutes of November meeting were approved
2. Committee Membership
  - New member - Barry Ehrlich was introduced to the committee. Barry and Jo-Anne are now official members of the Committee. Jeremy Sutherland will meet with Moe Handel to discuss his nomination.
  - There are two more potential candidates for the committee membership: Cynthia is trying to recruit Zahra Haghighatjoo, a resident at the Needham Housing Authority complex, and Amelia and Marlene have been contacted by Adie Jalfin, a Social Work student at Wheelock College. Both persons have been invited to attend our meetings.
3. MLK Day Celebration (January 19, 2015)
  - NHRC is co-sponsoring the MLK Day Celebration.
  - Amelia and Cynthia shared the agenda for the event. The event is mainly focused around youth activities. Most of the activities will be interactive. The Diversity Committee is hoping to attract families of the children attending and participating in scheduled activities.
  - Ashok, Abdul, Mike, Bud and Marlene have volunteered to help Cynthia with food/drinks and other logistics. Members of the Diversity Committee have offered their help as well. Cynthia indicated that a tax exempt certificate is available for businesses donating food.
4. Traces of the Trade Event
  - There seems to be consensus among the committee members that the film Traces of the Trade can be one of the planned events for 2015. The committee debated about the appropriate target audience for the film. Suggested focus groups were: students (Needham High School, Olin and Babson College), administrators from Police Department, School Department, Town Hall, Knights of Columbus. Co-sponsors were

encouraged (League of Women Voters, Library, Clergy Association, Parent-Teacher Organizations). Ideal time for most administrators would be early evening. It was decided to continue the discussion / planning at the next meeting.

5. Webpage

- Ashok will update the committee in January meeting.

6. Updates

- Immigration Justice Task Force: Cynthia provided an update on recent activities of the Task Force
- Diversity Committee: Amelia updated the committee with recent activities (including possible screening of Social Justice Films) of the Diversity Committee. Their next event following MLK Day is a discussion of the book Waking Up White with the author, Debby Irving, on March 26, 2015.

7. Guest Presentation

- In next meeting, there will be a guest speaker - Jo Crawford (Topic: Domestic Violence)

**Next Meeting: January 15, 2015 (Recorder: Jo-Anne)**